

AFTERBURN

Willie Cole:
selected works
1997 - 2004

May 12 - August 6, 2005

California African
American Museum





CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
600 STATE DRIVE
EXPOSITION PARK
LOS ANGELES, CA 90037

→ Visitor parking at
39th and Figueroa

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Willie Cole's interest in the synchronicity of African and American cultures and found object assemblage have formed the basis of the body of his work. In his assemblage, installation and wall works, Willie Cole transforms ordinary, domestic objects such as hair dryers, bicycle parts, iron and ironing boards, high-heeled shoes and lawn jockeys into powerful works embedded with references to the African American experience and inspired by West African religion, mythology and culture.

Discarded mass-produced American products, objects that have themselves acquired a "pre-history" through their earlier handling and use, become the raw material of Cole's creations. Drawing on his personal experience and collective cultural histories, his work is a playful, inquisitive and intelligent approach to synthesizing the physical and spiritual worlds. The show originated at the University of Wyoming Art Museum.

PROGRAMS

Saturday, May 21, 1:00 pm / In It to Win It A freestyle workshop in which participants create their own game boards and fashion characters who compete in the games people play in life.

Saturday, June 18, 1:00 - 3:30 pm / Irons in the Fire Join artist Edgar Arceneaux in designing your own family crest using symbols that best describe your family; then, paint the symbol on t-shirts. Ages: 8-12. Reserve: (213) 744-2133.

Saturday, July 9, 1:00 - 3:30 pm / My Robot Willie Cole's sculptures are often made of irons and reference African art. Artist Olga Koumoundouros leads participants in making robots out of iron and other materials. Ages: 13 & older. Reserve: (213) 744-2133.

The exhibition was funded in part by Jennifer McSweeney and Peter Reuss, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, the Norton Family Foundation, the National Advisory Board of the University of Wyoming Art Museum, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

California African American Museum . 600 State Drive, Exposition Park . Los Angeles, CA 90037
(213) 744-7432 . www.caamuseum.org . A California State Museum . Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
Admission free / Parking \$6.

Front: *Perm Press (hybrid)*, 1999, metal, wood and wax.